

**Relief to flood victims of District Kottayam, Kerala**

282. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 10,000 families have been affected by floods in the low-lying areas of Kottayam district in Kerala; and

(b) what are the details of the relief provided to flood victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Free ration is being given to 4605 affected families. The Government of Kerala have also provided for an *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 3000 to the next of kin in the case of a death of an adult and Rs. 1500 in case of a death of a child. *Ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 600 and Rs. 300 is also provided for fully damaged and partly damaged houses respectively.

**Construction of an automatic telephone exchange at Cannanore District of Kerala**

283. SHRI PATTIAM RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have acquired land at Tellicherry in Cannanore District of Kerala to construct an automatic telephone exchange; and

(b) if so, when it was acquired and what are the reasons for delay in constructing the automatic exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In March, 1973. Due to limited production of auto-exchange equipment in the country, it has not been

possible to allot the necessary automatic exchange equipment. Production capacity is being augmented. The building construction will be synchronized with the availability of equipment.

**Setting up of new telephone factories**

284. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up new telephone factories in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) and (b) A proposal to set up a new factory at Rae Bareilly Phase-II with an annual capacity for manufacture of 2 lakh telephone exchange lines of Cross Bar Switching Equipment, is under consideration of the Government. The capital cost of the Project is approximately Rs. 651 crores. Further, proposals are under active consideration to augment the present manufacturing capacity of 10,000 lines per annum of small electronic exchanges at Palghat unit of Indian Telephone Industries Ltd. to 1.5 lakh lines per annum by including manufacture of Electronic Trunk Automatic Exchanges and Rural Auto Exchanges. In addition further augmentation of manufacturing capacity is under consideration.

**Central schools in Orissa**

285. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to open Central schools in Orissa; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?